

Filed for intro on 03/11/2002

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 729

By McDaniel

A RESOLUTION to commend George W. Hattaway for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as Commissioner of the Department of Children's Services.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should honor those inimitable public servants who during their tenure in office have performed their appointed duties with remarkable dexterity and unprecedented commitment, and whose professionalism and competence will serve as a benchmark for future public officials; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Department of Children's Services Commissioner George W. Hattaway is one such distinguished public servant who has given unselfishly of himself, his time, and his remarkable talents to perpetuate the public good; and

WHEREAS, having begun his meritorious service as a member of Governor Sundquist's Cabinet in 1996, George W. Hattaway has distinguished himself as a highly respected leader in his field and an effective public servant; his decision to leave his post creates a void in state government that will not easily be filled; and

WHEREAS, holding bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Memphis, Commissioner Hattaway has a long and distinguished record of public service; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, he began working with the Tennessee Department of Correction as Regional Director; he quickly earned a reputation for honesty and efficiency while directing local operations of Adult and Juvenile Probation and Foster Care; and

WHEREAS, in 1981, he became State Director of the Department; he provided invaluable guidance to the agency during a period of considerable change and was responsible for the institution of numerous positive reforms; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, Commissioner Hattaway shifted to the Department of Youth Development, where he first served as Assistant Commissioner and later as Commissioner, in which position he repeatedly displayed keen insight and uncommon leadership and earned the respect and admiration of everyone in the Department; and

WHEREAS, recognizing Commissioner Hattaway's supreme wisdom and inspirational leadership, Governor Sundquist asked him in 1996 to served as Commissioner of the Department of Children's Services; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, Commissioner Hattaway has been a "hands-on" leader while overseeing the 3,400 employees within the department and a \$470 million annual budget; in addition to his administrative responsibilities, he has been actively involved in the department's daily activities and relations with the public; and

WHEREAS, his innovative approach has resulted in increased efficiency and the Department's first balanced budget in several years; during Commissioner Hattaway's watch, adoptions have increased by 71% and the time that children wait to be adopted has been significantly reduced; and

WHEREAS, a Continuum of Care was also developed under his watch which reduced daily rates by 9%, increased available services by 65%, and resulted in an average rate of success of 85%; and

WHEREAS, for many years, Commissioner Hattaway has shared his vast knowledge with others so that they might benefit from his expertise, and he has provided instruction at Shelby State Community College; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Hattaway has provided invaluable leadership as a member of several boards and committees; he has actively participated on the American Correctional Association's Task Force of Violence, the Juvenile Justice Reform Commission, the Board of Directors of Tennessee Voices for Children, and has served as President of the Middle Tennessee Association of Child Care and the Tennessee Correctional Association; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Hattaway has received numerous awards and honors for his exceptional leadership and outstanding public service, including Tennessee's Outstanding Achievement Award, the Tennessee Juvenile Court Judges Association President's Award, and recognition as Tennessee Correctional Association Outstanding Administrator; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Hattaway will long be remembered as an advocate and crusader for good, responsive government and the concerns of all Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Commissioner, George W. Hattaway has been a prominent figure on Capitol Hill; he is a gentleman whose talent and energy will rarely be equaled and, without question, he will be greatly missed; and

WHEREAS, it is now highly appropriate that the friends and colleagues of this outstanding public servant should honor him and recognize his numerous accomplishments and contributions to our great State upon the occasion of his departure from state government; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to George W. Hattaway for his numerous contributions to the people of Tennessee, and honor him for his distinguished service as Commissioner of Children's Services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we wish Commissioner Hattaway all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.